

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-10 are presently pending in this application. Claims 2, 3 and 11-22 have been canceled to expedite prosecution. Claims 1 and 4-6 have been amended herein to more particularly point out and define the subject matter regarded as inventive. No new matter has been added to the subject application. Support for these amendments is found throughout the specification and drawings of the subject application. Furthermore, no new issues have been raised by these amendments. Indeed, Claim 1 has been amended to reflect subject matter that was originally presented in Claim 2. Therefore, the added features of amended Claim 1 have already been adequately searched by the Examiner, and no further search is required.

## **RESPONSE TO DETAILED ACTION**

### **Rejection of Claims**

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,458,631 to Xavier. Xavier discloses an epidural catheter having an elongated body 12 with four ring electrodes 14 at the distal end thereof. The proximal end of body 12 has a canted section 24, which protects wires 16. The remainder of the proximal portion of body 12 defines an injection portal 26 adapted to engage a threaded syringe fitting. Xavier does not disclose more than one portal, lumen or passageway.

In contrast, amended Claim 1 recites, among other things, an implantable cardiac lead that includes an elongated lead body having a guidewire lumen and a fluid delivery lumen extending therethrough. A connector assembly is associated with a proximal end portion of the

lead body. The connector assembly has a proximal engagement stem, which the guidewire lumen and fluid delivery lumen extend through.

The lead defined by amended Claim 1 further includes a detachable ported connector fitting having a main body portion and a branch portion. The main body portion has an engagement bore for receiving the engagement stem of the connector assembly. In addition, the main body portion has a primary passageway to align and communicate with the guidewire lumen of the lead body by way of the engagement stem of the connector assembly, and the branch portion has a secondary passageway to align and communicate with the fluid delivery lumen of the lead body by way of the engagement stem of the connector assembly, when the ported connector fitting is threadably engaged with the connector assembly. Xavier does not disclose or suggest such a structural arrangement. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 and Claim 5, which depends from Claim 1, are not anticipated by Xavier. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0077684 to Clemens et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0077683 to Westlund et al.

Clemens et al. disclose a lead body 12 with a plurality of lumens extending therethrough and an adapter 58 having a plurality of ports. Clemens et al. fail to provide any written description or illustration of the manner in which the lumens of the lead body communicate with the ports of the adapter. Indeed, as clearly noted by the Examiner, at page 4 of the Office Action, "Clemens shows a connector assembly with an engagement stem (54) and a ported connector with an engagement bore, and it isn't clear how they are coupled, Clemens fails to

specifically show the engagement stem and engagement bore are threaded." Nonetheless, the Examiner believes that Westlund shows a ported connector assembly that utilizes threads for coupling the connector assembly and ported connector. The Examiner suggests that it would have been obvious to employ threads on the engagement stem and bore of Clemens et al. in view of Westlund et al.

However, even with the supposed threaded connection taught by Westlund et al., it is submitted that there is an absence in both references of any teaching or suggestion of a threaded connection that facilitates an alignment and communication between the lumens of a lead body and corresponding passageways of a ported connector fitting, as defined in amended Claim 1 of the subject application. Indeed, Westlund does not even appear to provide more than one lead lumen, if any at all, let alone alignment and communication of two lead lumens and two port passaways. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 and each of the remaining claims depending therefrom are not rendered obvious by the combination of Clemens et al. and Westlund et al., as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

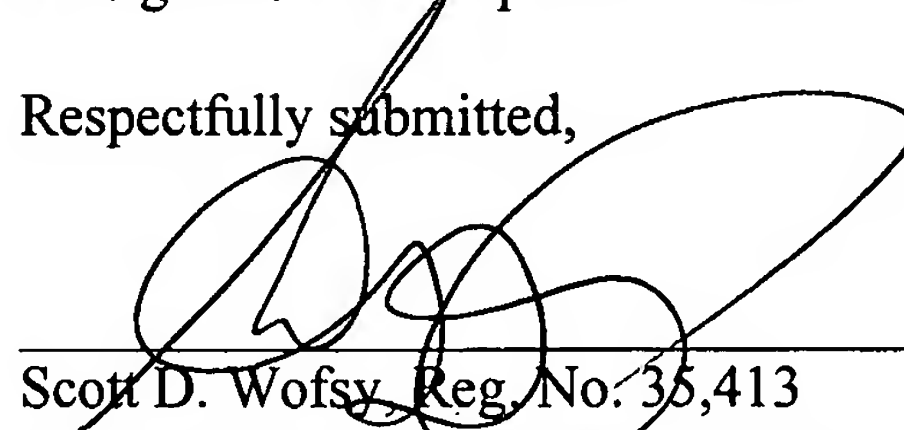
### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of the claims now pending in the subject application, namely Claims 1 and 4-10, are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

Should any further information be required to facilitate allowance of the subject application, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Scott D. Wofsy, Reg. No. 35,413  
EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE, LLP  
Intellectual Property Practice Group  
P.O. Box 55874  
Boston, MA 02205  
(203) 353-6831